

Message Text

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TAGS: FAO, OCON, ESCAP
SUBJ: FAO VIEWS ON ESCAP INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING
ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TOKYO, FEBRUARY 1-7, 1977

FODAG

TEHRAN FOR ROBERT SKIFF

REF: STATE 303095

1. POINTS IN REFTEL WERE DISCUSSED DECEMBER 20 WITH DR. H. FAIRCHILD, PROGRAM PLANNING AND FORMULATION OFFICER OF FAO'S HUMAN RESOURCES, INSTITUTIONS, AND AGRARIAN REFORM DIVISION. DR. FAIRCHILD KNOWS OF NO CONFLICT BETWEEN FAO AND ESCAP ON PLANNING FOR 1979 WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. FAO IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH VARIOUS UN AGENCIES ON THE 1979 CONFERENCE, AND HAS A COMMITTEE IN BANGKOK WITH ESCAP TO FACILITATE COORDINATION.

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2. AS FOR ESCAP'S FEBRUARY 1-7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING, DR. FAIRCHILD IS NOT WELL INFORMED ON PLANS, BUT SEES NO CONFLICT WITH RESPECT TO PREPARATIONS FOR 1979 WORLD CONFERENCE, SINCE FAO PLANS TO HOLD LATER THAT MONTH A CONFERENCE OF THE AGENCIES WITH WHICH IT IS COORDINATING PLANNING FOR THE 1979 WORLD CONFERENCE. DR. FAIRCHILD ANTICIPATES THAT THE ESCAP

FEBRUARY 1-7 MEETING WOULD OF COURSE DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1979 WORLD CONFERENCE, AND EXPECTS IT ALSO TO TRY TO REVIVE

THE PROPOSAL FOR AN EAST ASIAN REGIONAL CENTER FOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT. HE SAYS FAO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ESCAP FEBRUARY 1-7 MEETING, AND THAT MONEY HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR AN FAO OFFICIAL FROM HEADQUARTERS (POSSIBLY DR. FAIRCHILD) TO PARTICIPATE, AS WELL AS FAO REGIONAL PARTICIPATION.

3. DR. FAIRCHILD BELIEVES THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA IS HIS OPENING STATEMENT TO THE FAO COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 29 THAT HE HAS PROPOSED QTE WINDING-UP UNQTE THE FAO/ ESCAP JOINT DIVISION IS NOT BASED ON ANY ANIMOSITY TOWARD ESCAP BUT ON SAOUMA'S VIEW THAT THAT AND OTHER JOINT DIVISIONS DO NOT REALLY IMPROVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MOTHER AGENCIES. THIS IS BORNE OUT BY THE FACT THAT SAOUMA, IN HIS STATEMENT PREFACED THE REMARKS ON THE ESCAP/FAO JOINT DIVISION WITH RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FAO WORKING CLOSE WITH THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS, AND SPOKE OF RE-SHAPING THE FAO REGIONAL OFFICES FOR THAT PURPOSE. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE US AND UK CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA GROUP IN ROME IN EARLY NOVEMBER SAOUMA DIGRESSED FROM THE MAIN SUBJECTS TO INDICATE THAT HE PLANNED TO TAKE ACTION TO TERMINATE THE JOINT DIVISIONS WITH OTHER UN BODIES, BECAUSE HE FOUND THAT THESE JOINT DIVISIONS HINDERED RATHER THAN HELPED COLLABORATION AND OFTEN GAVE RISE TO BUREAUCRATIC CONFLICTS. WE BELIEVE SAOUMA'S VIEW ON THIS IS HEAVILY COLORED BY HIS INSISTENCE ON CLEAR LINES OF COMMAND AND AUTHORITY FROM HIMSELF TO ALL FAO PERSONNEL. HE MAY ALSO BE INFLUENCED BY THE DOCTRINE OF FAO'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE AND DIRECTOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF OFFICE OF PROGRAM AND BUDGET EDWARD WEST THAT INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION WOULD BE EFFECTED BASICALLY BY EACH AGENCY FULFILLING ITS OWN ROLE AND COORDINATING AS NECESSARY WITHOUT CREATING UNNECESSARY STRUCTURES FOR COORDINATION.BEAUDRY

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